CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1354
15 September 1995

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 14 SEPTEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CHILE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE ON THE RESUMPTION OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

The office of the Permanent Representative of Chile to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference and has pleasure in attaching an official statement by the Government of Chile on the resumption of French nuclear tests, with a request to distribute it as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

GE.95-63774 (E)

STATEMENT

The Government of Chile rejects and condemns the nuclear test carried out by France on Mururoa Atoll yesterday despite worldwide protests.

This explosion, the first in a series being carried out by France, added to those conducted by the People's Republic of China, has interrupted a long period during which the world was spared this type of test, which appeared to have been left behind by the new approaches to international security.

Chile is firmly resolved to condemn each further test, convinced as it is that they represent a backward step politically in the dynamics of nuclear disarmament and in the banning of nuclear tests once and for all. These tests also involve potential irreparable consequences for the health and safety of the populations of the neighbouring countries in the Pacific, their living resources and their environment.

In the same way, the Government of Chile endorses the initiative taken by the Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) in reaching agreement on a joint strategy with the members of the Consultative Committee of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) at the forthcoming fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, with the aim of securing the adoption of an immediate moratorium on all nuclear tests.

As a sign of its displeasure, the Government has recalled the Chilean Ambassador in France for consultations.

The Government of Chile urgently calls on the French Government to reconsider its decision to pursue this programme of tests.

Santiago, 6 September 1995.